

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixth Worcester Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of Sixth Worcester Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; less than one percent (959) of these admissions reside in the Sixth Worcester Representative District. 3% (27) of admissions from the Sixth Worcester Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Sixth Worcester Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 72% were male and 28% were female.
- 64% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 74% were white non-Latino, 2% were black non-Latino, 21% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 64% were never married, 17% were married, and 19% reported not to be married now.
- 38% had less than high school education, 47% completed high school, and 16% had more than high school education.
- 36% were employed.
- 4% were homeless.
- 28% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixth Worcester Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	40%	42%	10%	2%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
Sixth Worcester Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	823	664	223	141	83	194	106
FY '96	777	621	229	157	85	197	132
FY '97	806	658	286	194	107	214	182
FY '98	910	716	329	202	141	311	243
FY '99	1,033	792	366	235	135	334	252
FY '00	1,037	783	376	255	145	417	310
FY '01	1,159	785	385	243	119	511	406
FY '02	959	604	283	194	108	408	318

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional changes in all admissions in the Sixth Worcester Representative District and the proportional changes in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

